

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

980 Ninth Street, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA. 95814-2724

January 9, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO

HDA-CA

Document # 40883

Mr. Jeff Morales, Director  
California Department of Transportation  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Branch, Room 3500  
For Kris Balaji, Transportation Programming

Dear Mr. Morales:

**SUBJECT: FY 2002/03 FSTIP Amendment No. 1 – Council of Fresno County Governments (COFCG)**

We have completed our review of Amendment No. 1 to the State Highway Element of the COFCG's 2002/03-2004/05 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated November 26, 2002. The COFCG adopted this amendment with Resolution No. 2002-37, Amendment No. 1, on September 26, 2002, approving these program modifications and reaffirming the conformity of the COFCG FTIP with the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality.

This amendment was requested by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to reduce construction costs for a State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) project near Selma on State Route 99 in Fresno and Tulare Counties. The project scope includes the widening of State Route 99 from 4 to 6 lanes between State Route 201 and the Floral Avenue overcrossing. This amendment reduces the total construction cost from \$52,105,000 to \$46,000,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2002/03 due to a reduction in the project's construction cost estimate. This amendment also extends the project limits approximately 0.6 miles in Fresno County and 3.4 miles in Tulare County for the K-rail component only. The scope of highway capacity improvements associated with this project remains unchanged from the original 2002/03-2004/05 COFCG FTIP listing.

We accept this amendment in accordance with the provisions of 23 CFR Part 450. We find that this amendment was developed through a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. section 134, and section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. §1607). Based on our review, we find that changes made to the COFCG FTIP by this amendment are exempt from the requirement that a conformity determination be performed. Therefore, we find this FTIP to conform to the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP).

This finding has been coordinated with the regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Region Nine office of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in accordance with the procedures outlined on the Memorandum of Understanding, dated March 8, 1996, on single mode FTIP amendments.

This letter also constitutes approval and inclusion of the COFCG's FTIP Amendment No. 1 into California's 2002/03 – 2004/05 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP).

Sincerely,

*/s/ K. Sue Kiser*

For

Gary N. Hamby

Division Administrator

c:

EPA Region IX, Karina O'Connor

FTA Region IX, Paul Page

COFCG FTIP Binder

COFCG, Barbara Goodwin

COFCG, Tony Boren

COFCG, Rick Ballantyne

COFCG, Mike Bitner

COFCG, Jason Paukovits

Caltrans:

Randy Steen, Federal Resources Branch

Jim Nicholas, Transportation Programming

Abhijit Bagde, Transportation Programming

Terry Abbott, Office of Local Programs

Kris Balaji, Office of Federal Program Management (FAX: 916-654-2738) ✓